



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY
121 BLAKE ROAD
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21402-5000

John Hughes

19 March 1997

Captain B. D. Neal, CEC, USN
Director of Seabee Support
Naval Facilities Engineering Command
200 Stovall Street
Alexandria, VA 22332-2300

Dear Dan,

This is in response to your letter of 7 March 1997 requesting information relating to NMCB SEVEN FOUR of which I was the Commanding Officer while we were deployed in support of Operation Desert Storm. I do not personally have any records in my possession and the only records I recall would be maintained by NMCB SEVEN FOUR are the deployment completion report and any logs maintained in the command centers located at our various detail sites.

As Commanding Officer who spent most of his time at Mishab, I do not recall ever receiving a chemical alert on our detection equipment. Nor do I recall a report from any of any NMCB SEVEN FOUR units experiencing any chemical alarms. The only specific health hazard I can recall occurred after the Iraqi's lit fire to the oil fields. In Mishab we experienced several days characterized by heavy smoke in our areas as a result of the fires.

During my tour as Commanding Officer, which ended in July 1992, I do not recall a single instance of any of the men from SEVEN FOUR complaining about any sickness or health problems related to the Gulf War.

I hope that this information is helpful. Should you have any additional questions, please contact me at (410) 293-1547.

Sincerely,

W. P. FOGARTY
Captain, CEC, U.S. Navy
Deputy for Management